

The Journal.

W. E. HEARST.
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THE WEATHER.

Official forecasts for to-day indicate rain.

Sound money appears to have more fool friends than any other cause ever presented to the American people.

Mr. Taubeneck's ambition to Mark Hannaize the second St. Louis Convention is not showing strong signs of gratification.

It looks as if Mark Hanna's "business methods" have returned to St. Louis to do a little "business" with the Populists.

The nullification of the Kansas easy divorce law will doubtless have the effect of throwing that State back into a bleeding condition.

For a man who went abroad to keep out of politics, Colonel Watterson seems to be taking unusual pains to make his views known.

Mr. Eckels's boycott on bank officials who incline to free silver is right in line with other boomerang performances of the Administration.

When did Hon. Andrew D. White ever seek to better the condition of the Democratic party? Why should his proffered advice be accepted on this particular occasion?

While Mr. Hanna is casting about for tariff object lessons, he should not overlook that strike now in progress in that highly protected manufacturing establishment at Cleveland.

The only serious allegation against Mr. Bryan which appears to be true is that on the several occasions when Hon. J. Sterling Morton was seeking to secure the Democratic nomination in Nebraska, he was the Democratic nominee versus him.

The opposition has started a number of campaign stories on Mr. Bryan, but none of them were made to stick. However, they have demonstrated that the public and private life of the Democratic nominee is all that can be desired.

The Republican newspapers have suddenly discovered that Mr. Eckels is a profound statesman. The average Republican editor is prepared to discover almost anything when he is out hunting for votes for Republican office-seekers.

Having denounced the Chicago platform and bolted the nominees of the convention, Secretary Herbert and his sisters and his cousins and his aunts, together with a few other relatives, are now preparing for another pleasure cruise on the Dolphin.

H. C. Payne, one of Mark Hanna's syndicate colleagues, is being attacked by the labor unions on account of the prominent part he took against the employees of the Milwaukee street railway companies. But why don't the labor unions go after Mark himself?

Newspapers that are engaged in naming cabinets for Mr. Bryan, for the sole purpose of making the Democratic nominee appear ridiculous, simply invite comparisons, and the present Cabinet is one that is not calculated to make a good showing in such a process.

The Hon. William F. Sheehan and the Hon. Jacob Cantor are young men of bright parts who owe to the Democratic party their present eminence and ability to earn substantial fees in their profession. The Democracy is not a ladder than can be kicked from under those who have mounted it without disastrous results.

TARIFF MATHEMATICS.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Mail and Express, keeps a tame mathematician who would be a treasure in any time museum in this broad land. The other day he built a column of denunciation of the present tariff upon the alleged fact that the returns of foreign commerce for the past year showed an enormous decrease of exports and increase of imports. Now that it has been pointed out to him that this statement is the very reverse of the truth, the fact being that there has been an immense and rapidly increasing surplus of exports in the year just closed, he explains airily that he was not comparing the past year with the one preceding, but with 1892, which happened to be the most favorable of all the four years under the McKinley regime.

Our contemporary objects to making comparisons with 1893, when the country was terrorized and paralyzed by

the tariff-smashing threats of Cleveland and his followers, then just inducted into national control. It happens, however, that the fiscal years end with June, and the panic did not begin until June, 1893. The fiscal year 1893, therefore, was almost entirely included in the most prosperous part of the McKinley period, and eight months of it came under the Harrison Administration. For that year our exports were \$947,665,194 and our imports \$866,409,922, an "adverse balance" of \$18,735,728, as compared with exports of over \$880,000,000, imports of less than \$780,000,000, and a "favorable balance" of \$103,000,000, in the year just closed.

Moreover, our exports of domestic manufactures were greater in the fiscal year 1896 than in any other year in the history of the country, 1892 not excepted, and there were only two reasons why the value of exported farm products was not greater—one that the crops in 1891 were abnormally large, and the other that the prices of farm products have been steadily shrinking under the financial policy which the Mail and Express desires to perpetuate.

STANDARD OIL'S NEW VICTORY.

So it has come at last—the union of America's greatest trust, the Standard Oil Company, with the Rothschilds and other financial magnates that control the Russian wells, in order to give the final death blow to what little competition is left and divide the industrial world between them. As the Journal, alone of the New York papers, told its readers yesterday, this momentous deal seems practically consummated. What do the American people think about it? Built up by the most nefarious discriminations by the railroads, and the most suspicious relations with State Legislatures, city councils, and even the courts and our Congress at Washington, this gigantic monopoly has become the object of envy and imitation among the justly hated trusts now formed or forming in almost every industry.

Although built up and still, apparently, somewhat favored by secret railroad rates, present methods of throttling competition are even more startling. To quote but one out of many illustrations at hand, we know of a merchant in a certain Michigan city who began to buy oil where he could buy it cheaper than he could of the Standard. Soon an agent of the latter told the merchant that unless he bought all his oil of the Standard the trust would sell it far below cost in his town and make up any loss, while ruining him, by charging a cent a gallon more than before in the surrounding towns. The merchant had to surrender and become the slave of this monopoly, as has been the case with thousands of merchants similarly situated throughout the land.

In the Spring of 1895 the trust suddenly forced up the price of oil over 100 per cent, and then as quickly and arbitrarily lowered it again, though not to its former level. Can we wonder that the trust declared \$35,000,000 dividends on its nominal capital of \$36,000,000 last year?

It is sought to hoodwink the public by claiming that the trust is to be credited with the decline in the price of oil since the formation of the trust in 1882. A greater popular fallacy does not exist. Repeated investigations by such men as President Andrews, of Brown University; Professor J. W. Jenks, of Cornell University, and others, show that the average charge for refining oil—that is, the difference between the cost of crude and refined oil—was 5.57 2-3 cents in 1881 to 1883 inclusive, and 5.55 cents in 1891 to 1893 inclusive—the last figures at hand.

Before the formation of the trust, in 1882, the charge for refining, which alone until lately was in the province of the trust, had been steadily falling from the average of 13.87 cents per gallon in 1871 to 1873, inclusive, to 5.57 2-3 cents in 1881-83.

This is absolute proof that the fall in the price of oil since 1882 has been due to a fall at the wells, and not due to the reduced charges of the Standard. Yet how can we expect the public to realize this when the wealth of the company is used to debauch many sources of information, even our colleges and our churches, though fortunately a few such fearless investigators as President Andrews are left. But note how on receipt of \$3,000,000 from Mr. Rockefeller a year ago, the students of the University of Chicago sang one of their college glees:

The methods of the trust
Are most just,
For they redound to the glory of U. of C.
(University of Chicago), while other colleges have refused to call certain economic teachers lest donations from Standard Oil trustees be thereby endangered.

Is it not about time Americans took cognizance of the situation, and is it strange that the Democratic party at Chicago grew somewhat excited over the abuses which the increasing power of monopoly makes notorious?

FREE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

The recent opening of free State employment bureaus in several New York cities, one branch being at No. 331 East Fourteenth street, should be brought to the attention of every man

MCKINLEYISM IN THE PULPIT.

In times of popular unrest the political preacher is always a conspicuous figure. Sometimes he flits in advance of the crowd, a stormy petrel of revolution, but more often he stands by imperilled abuses, and rallies selfish conservatism to resist reforms. It is the clergy that is the bulwark of Toryism in England; and in America the clergy was the mainstay of Federalism and the anchor of slavery. By the time a devout ante-bellum congregation had listened to a stirring sermon on the text "Cursed be Canaan," it needed no further incitement to go forth and lynch an Abolitionist.

Now that another crusade, as abhorrent to smug conservatism as that for the abolition of slavery, is on, the political preacher is again abundantly in evidence. The Rev. Robert S. MacArthur, for instance, has begun the McKinley campaign ahead of McKinley himself. He is delivering a series of Sunday evening stump speeches from the pulpit of the Calvary Baptist Church, and the enthusiasm with which he hurls himself into the carnival of calumny that is swirling around the Chicago candidates and platform indicates that he mistook his vocation when he adopted religion instead of politics for his profession.

Unfortunately, as Dr. MacArthur has wasted all his serious study on theology, he has the misfortune of not knowing anything about politics except what he reads in his favorite papers. Hence his criticisms on the Democratic platform are mere echoes of the ravings of the Sun, Evening Post, Herald and Times—and there is nothing much more depressing than second-hand ravings.

For example, Dr. MacArthur accused the Chicago platform of threatening to "degrade the Supreme Court of the United States." "This court," he added, with portentous solemnity, "is the authoritative interpreter of the Constitution."

To degrade it would be a national calamity. Do the supporters of this platform want Anarchy? Do they not know that Christian patriotism insists that "lex is rex"—that law is king and must rule? That platform propounds and propagates dangerous doctrines. Its teaching comes perilously near being revolutionary. Americanism is not Anarchism.

Evidently this eloquent exhorter has never read the platform he denounces, and his innocence of any acquaintance with the proceedings of the Supreme Court is as spotless as a maiden's. All the platform said about the court was this:

Until the money question is settled we are opposed to any agitation for further changes in our tariff laws except such as are necessary to meet the deficit caused by the adverse decision of the Supreme Court on the income tax.

There would be no deficit in the revenue but for the annulment by the Supreme Court of a law passed by a Democratic Congress in strict pursuance of the uniform decision of that Court for nearly one hundred years, that Court having sustained constitutional objections to its enactment which have been overruled by the ablest judges who had ever sat on that Bench.

We declare that it is the duty of Congress to use all the constitutional power which remains after that decision, or which may come from its reversal by the Court as it may hereafter be constituted, so that the burdens of taxation may be equally and impartially laid, to the end that we may all bear our proportion of the expenses of the Government.

Let us take Dr. MacArthur's own maxim, that "law is king and must rule." On August 27, 1894, the law required the collection of an income tax. The constitutionality of such a tax had been established by the unanimous decisions of the Supreme Court for a hundred years. There never had been a decision to the contrary. If ever there was a time when law should have ruled, it was then.

But certain rich men who would have had to pay something toward the Government support if that law had been allowed to stand undertook to have it annulled. They asked the Supreme Court to reverse the record of its entire history for their profit. Where was Dr. MacArthur when the court was subjected to that degradation? There was abundant warning of its meaning. The tax shirkers were told at the time that their action was a blow at the stability of all law, and if successful must inevitably destroy popular respect for the court and lead to retaliation in kind. But all protests were unheeded, the principle of "stare decisis" was recklessly overridden, and the Supreme Court was induced first to mutilate, and then, by the change of heart of a single Justice, to annul a tax which had been adopted in turn by both parties, and which formed the only item of our national revenue system that did not discriminate unjustly against people of small means.

Is it not rather early to try to cover such a transaction as that with the moss of prescriptive right? If a century's unanimous decisions of the Supreme Court were not safe from reversal for the convenience of a few millionaires, is it anarchy to suggest the possibility of changing a five to four decision that is only one year old? It certainly would not be if some of the financial pillars of Dr. MacArthur's congregation were to be benefited by the change.

And woman, whether possible employer or employee. Doubtless the extravagant hopes of some friends of the new law will be disappointed. In Ohio, where the measure has had about five years' trial in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus and Dayton, more women than men and more unskilled than the skilled labor have secured work through these opportunities for free industry. The problem of the unemployed is by no means solved, but only rendered a little easier by these public employment bureaus. Yet, within certain limits, and when administered intelligently and ably, valuable service will be rendered by them to both the seeker for work and for workers.

A large measure of success in this important undertaking will depend on New York avoiding the mistake of Ohio, which has allowed some of its public employment bureaus to become wards of political service. With the avoidance of this danger, and with proper interest in the matter on the part of those it is intended to benefit, the extension of State activity will commend itself to all.

THE PRICE OF GAS.

The report, just printed, of the public-owned gas works of Richmond, Va., for 1895 has interesting lessons for New York. We have twenty times as great a population and much greater density, while the cost of raw material is also probably less here than in Richmond. Yet the price there is only \$1, while here we pay \$1.25 for the privilege of having a private monopoly ransack a public business. The somewhat higher candle power here will by no means account for this difference in price. In Boston, which is much better situated for supplying cheap gas than Richmond, but not as well situated for so doing as New York, the price is \$1, and the sworn returns made to the State in 1892 by the Boston companies indicated that the entire cost, aside from interest and depreciation, was only 60 cents.

In Richmond last year the operating expenses were 70 cents. Experience there has abundantly shown that 10 cents per thousand feet is ample to allow for depreciation, while 5 cents will cover the taxes of the average private company. Thus the total cost to Richmond is 85 cents. Careful calculations show that she could replace

her works, which have been entirely paid out of net earnings, for \$3 per thousand feet of annual output. By selling gas at \$1 this enterprising Southern city makes 5 per cent on her investment, provided we value at \$1, as we should, the gas used in the street lamps and public buildings. Why could not New York City, under civil service rules, make as good a profit and sell gas at 80 cents, if she only had the public spirit to undertake the business herself, as Richmond has done?

With the removal, under a new and efficient superintendent, of some of the weaknesses of the last two years of gas management in Richmond, a still better showing is assured there this year, but New York continues to pay \$1.25 for what at 80 cents would be widely introduced in the homes of the wage workers; for it would then vie in cheapness with coal as fuel for cooking, and be vastly more convenient. As long, however, as municipal and national politics are unannually united, and there is so little real interest in these vital home questions, we must keep on paying these companies a monopoly profit that permits the floating at par of over twice the capital necessary to duplicate their plants.

LAST SUNDAY'S TRAGEDY.

There are few tragedies recorded the results of which are as sad to those immediately concerned as that by which Joseph Griffin, aged sixteen years, met his death on Sunday afternoon, at the hands of his brother James, aged twelve. There could have been no murderous impulse on the part of a child so young; and yet, through a single act done in the heat of passion, a widowed mother is plunged into desolation that can only be barely imagined by those who have not suffered in similar circumstances; a bright boy loses a life full of promise, and another is doomed to the horror and suffering of a long term of imprisonment at the least, and of the deathless remorse that is the inheritance of a fratricide.

Nothing could better illustrate the injustice of destiny, or call it by any other name that suggests the same idea, than this tragedy of a Sunday afternoon. A widowed mother bids farewell to two children who are the mainstay of her existence, and they start out for a harmless game

of ball. The younger is whittling a stick and the older is carrying the ball, club and mask which are the paraphernalia of their prospective afternoon's pleasure. A quarrel, such as is not uncommon among children of any class or any degree of breeding, is brought about concerning which brother shall carry the mask; and, simply because the younger lad has the knife in his hand, he, in a moment of rage, stabs his brother to the heart.

So far as motive and premeditation go, the impulse was not any more reprehensible than if James Griffin had struck his brother with his fist, and they had both laughed about it a moment later. So far as the results are concerned, it is a tragedy that costs one life and blights two others. Altogether it is a circumstance that logic cannot explain under human laws.

While it is an excellent idea that is about to take shape in New York, having been borrowed from the West—that of having a school of instruction attached to each of the larger dry goods and other stores for the young girls employed therein—it must not be forgotten that there are some employers to whom a course in a school of instruction in humanity would be both beneficial and necessary.

Some of the former leaders in the Democratic party are at present refraining from coming out strong in favor of the platform of the Democratic party as declared at Chicago until the meeting of the State Convention. By that time the entire rank and file of the party, including the county organizations and Tammany, will have expressed themselves plainly, so that when the convention meets these former leaders will be obliged to express themselves to themselves only. This will place them in the position of followers instead of leaders of Democratic thought.

Why should millionaire holders of American securities, like Messrs. Flower, Brady, Whitney and Belmont, fear a panic through the unloading by English holders of American railroad and industrial stocks? Would not this great unloading which they predict place the purchasing power in their own hands, and will not the earning capacity of these roads and industries remain the same? Will there be one rail less on the roadways or one brick less in the factories? For the time being values would be real and not fictitious, but that would constitute the millionaire's opportunity to invest. If the European holders of American stocks were such fools as to unload these excellent securities to large quantities, the rich Americans would have an opportunity to secure some very good property at a bargain. The European stockholder, however, is no fool.

If the managers of the McKinley campaign should advertise for some one maxim that would be more useful to them than any other, we are inclined to think that the prize would be earned by the suggestion, "Drop hypocrisy." There is nothing more offensive and stupid than the continued outbursts of horror at proceedings on the part of the supporters of Bryan which are mere commonplace in all parties. Mr. Andrew D. White, for instance, saw a threat of revolution and anarchy in the fact that women at the Chicago Convention waved flags and screamed, as they do at all conventions. And now the Sun is shocked at the "extraordinary" proposal of the Democratic managers to use Congressional franking in mailing campaign literature, as if every party had not done the same thing since the franking privilege was invented. "This privilege was not granted," observes our upright contemporary, "so that a combine of free silverites and Anarchists could use it as the lever in a national campaign." No, it was merely granted so that a combine of mill bosses and coal barons could circulate Tariff Histories of the United States, as they did in the last Harrison campaign.

What nonsense some clergymen do manifest when they speak on economic subjects without having any preparation therefor! Speaking of the Democratic platform on Sunday, Rev. Dr. MacArthur declared:

It is proposed by a Government fiat to give value where value does not intrinsically exist. You might as well by a Government fiat make water run up a hill. One might as well by a Government fiat double the value of wheat or pig iron as attempt to double the value of silver. The spirit of the Chicago platform at this point is the essence of dishonesty and dishonesty.

Now any one who thinks at all on the subject, not even excepting the Evening Post, knows that the tariff, to take an example, is opposed by free traders because it raises prices, while the protectionist wants the tariff on that very account, though he may claim that in the end home competition will bring prices down again. The important point to observe is that both protectionists and free traders realize that law, by acting in either demand or supply, can greatly affect values. So with hosts of other things. If the closing of the Indian mint to silver in June, 1893, reduced the market value of silver in the dollar, as it did, from seventy to fifty cents in five days, what is there so absurd or "dishonest" in holding that the opening of our mints to the free coinage of silver would greatly raise its value? Before our clerical friend again uses his position to attack the motives of his political opponents, he should be sure of his facts.

"The Grip of Iron," A Powerful Melodrama.

London, July 10.—There are companies galore in America that grow rich on the plaudits of non-metropolitan playgoers; and over here managers amass fortunes by keeping out of London. For a number of years English theatrical journals have been praising an organization that has presented a melodrama entitled "The Grip of Iron" through the provinces with brilliant results. It hovered around the outskirts of the metropolis mischievously, as though playing a game of tag with it, and finally it came to London. Londoners' wealth began to accumulate. London grew interested, and this week "The Grip of Iron" came to that popular-price house in Oxford street known as the Princess's Theatre, and comparable to the Grand Opera House in New York.

I dropped in there last night, and saw a performance that would not have disgraced any of London's most promising stock companies. You see, when a number of people have banded themselves together into an incorruptible travelling troupe, and have toured the country for years, you get the effects of a stock company, and when the discipline has been severe, and the success perpetual, the most felicitous results are achieved. I'm not fond of melodrama. It generally appeals to me as irresistibly comic. I see its ridiculous side largely luminous, with the cheap and flashy light of paste jewelry. In "The Grip of Iron," a highly sensational five-act play, perfectly presented and marvellously well acted, the members of the company worked together in absolute harmony. There was not a vestige of rough edge. Every point had been calculated by years of measuring experience. Every absurdity had been eliminated, and the effect was absolutely new to me. I had gone to scoff—for I had met an American manager who advised me to go and see what rubbish the provinces tolerated—but I stayed to applaud. I saw the members of the company worked together in absolute harmony. There was not a vestige of rough edge. Every point had been calculated by years of measuring experience. Every absurdity had been eliminated, and the effect was absolutely new to me. I had gone to scoff—for I had met an American manager who advised me to go and see what rubbish the provinces tolerated—but I stayed to applaud. I saw the members of the company worked together in absolute harmony. There was not a vestige of rough edge. Every point had been calculated by years of measuring experience. Every absurdity had been eliminated, and the effect was absolutely new to me. I had gone to scoff—for I had met an American manager who advised me to go and see what rubbish the provinces tolerated—but I stayed to applaud. 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